



WILDCHATTER

METCALF PTO NEWS AND NOTES

The PTO is really looking forward to a wonderful year with our families.

Serving our families for 2007-2008 as PTO officers are:

Heather Marshall - Pres., Bob Piker - Vice Pres., Sarah Curtis - Treasurer and Michelle Hardman - Secretary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Festival Meeting:	Friday, Aug 31	8 am	Coffee House
PTO Kick Off Meeting:	Thurs, Sept 6	7:00	Library
Family Picnic:	Friday, Sept 7	5:30	Playground
School Pictures:	Sept 11 - 13		See Notes from Teachers

Morning Drop Off

Welcome back to Metcalf!! I am looking forward to a wonderful year filled with shining moments for our students, families and staff. Our staff is working hard to make sure that our drop off and pick up procedures are working safely and efficiently for our students, families, staff, ISU community and the Town of Normal. For those new to our Metcalf family, our policy is to not allow drop off on University Ave., in the circle drives or in the kindergarten area. This policy is first, and foremost, in place to protect our children. However, our policy must meet the needs of the ISU community and the Town of Normal. Generally, the first couple weeks of school causes congestion in the drop off/pick up areas. Parents are eager to accompany their children to the assembly to ensure their safety and comfort, new families are getting used to the procedures and the kids are a little overwhelmed. The congestion usually dies down after a couple weeks as families fall into routines, the students gain confidence in walking to the auditorium on their own and there are fewer items to bring into school to start the year. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful families at Metcalf and I want to thank you for your care and concern for all the children. Because of your suggestions regarding safety, Jim has added more student supervisors in the pick-up area. We are always looking for people who can see the "big picture" as well as the pieces of the process. If you have ideas that would help to make this system better, please jot them down and put them in my mailbox. I will throw them in a folder for the end of the year review. We have all chosen to be a part of a wonderful school and I appreciate your support for our policies that are an important part of maintaining our wonderful environment. I appreciate your patience and cooperation and look forward to seeing those bright shining faces every morning!

If you would like some helpful hints from a Metcalf mom, please read on...

Some ideas to help with the congestion are trying to leave 10 minutes earlier than your normal routine - this can be time spent talking with the kids while in line to drop off and it lessens the stresses of the morning; be courteous to other drivers, only park two deep along the fence and try to leave space for other parents to park and/or get out of the spots; have your students ready for drop off - backpacks, etc in hand and ready to go as soon as you pull up to the school door; and drop off only in the designated areas to lessen congestion and the possibility of accidents for everyone.

If you would like a bit more history please read on...

Up until 2004 our school had no parking or drop off area in the rear of the school. Everyone dropped off in the front and had very few parking options for attending school events or for volunteering. The drop off and pick up times took much longer, were not very safe and caused tremendous congestion on the streets surrounding the school. We worked with the Town of Normal and ISU to create a safer, more efficient plan for everyone. The back parking and pick up/drop off area was created in order to minimize frustrations across the board. A year ago, upon our request, the town of Normal changed Dry Grove to a one-way street to help with traffic flow. No situation is perfect when the school is located on the college campus, however, we believe the benefits far out way the inconveniences.

PTO WEBSITE

Check out the new PTO website. There is a ton of information out there on all our events, the Wildchatter, Montage and coming soon, pictures!!! We will be adding an "All School Wish List" soon. We have asked the staff and PTO to list all the items our school could use to enhance the atmosphere and educational experience and would love for families to check it out. Lots of families have like new items at home that might fit a need here..so take a look!

Gracias!

Thank you to all the **Registration Volunteers** - it is a long day and we appreciate your efforts!

KUDOS TO THE PANCRAZIO FAMILY - Thanks for 4 new cafeteria microwaves! Lunch is served!

Christy Bazan...Thank you for a great New Family Orientation - It was really awesome!

Give it up for the **Room Parents** - they are already on task and doing great work!!

Montage is coming - Mark your calendars for **DECEMBER 15, 2007** at the Blm Center for the Performing Arts

MONTAGE RAFFLE!!

PRIZES: 4 Tickets to the 2008 WORLD SERIES, \$1000 Bremer Jewellery Piece and Golf Package for 4 at ISU!!!

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$25. We are asking for volunteers to sell the tickets to families, friends and neighbors.

Email or call Beth Sinclair to get your ticket packet (BSINCLAIR@CHESTNUT.ORG or 829-0032).

Sell 25 raffle tickets and receive a Free Ticket to Montage (\$25 value)

MONTAGE SOLICITORS NEEDED!!

We just need 7 more people to solicit businesses for Montage..it really is easy and will only take a day of your time. I went out on Tuesday and a lot of fun doing it and got through half my area in 90 minutes. Please contact Me at MichelleHardman@insightbb.com if you can help with this. Thanks to all the solicitors already out there!!

Get Inspired!  Get Inspired!

By Dee Damkoehler, Metcalf Teaching Consultant

(August 24, 2007) It was May 31st and the Metcalf school year had just drawn to a close when Dean of Students Kathy Taylor found herself at Barnes and Noble already searching for the "perfect something" that would help provide a unique and inspirational opening day for the upcoming school year! It was then she saw an intriguing little book entitled, *The Dog Poop Initiative: A True Story*. Kathy loved the delightful tale, which illustrated with warmth and humor the difference between those who are problem solvers and take initiative and those who simply point out the "problems." **READ MORE AT THIS LINK:**

<http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/news/2007/metcalfkickoff.shtml>

BOXTOPS - Class Collections have started!! **CAMPBELL'S LABELS** - Send to 4th Grade

HOLIDAY BAZAAR - Drop off anytime in the office!! **LOST & FOUND:** - Remember names in items

SPIRITWEAR - Another Order will be done in late October if you weren't able to order in August.

MARKETDAY - Pick up is now from 3:30 to 4:30. Yummy Foods await you!

I know this is a lot ..sorry, we wanted to get as much information out as possible to start the year - as always, ignore my imperfections..ha ha....We will be discussing PTO PRIORITIES at the FIRST MEETING & We'll HAVE SNACKS!!